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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

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SUBJECT Structure and Functions of the East German
State Commission for Trade and Procurement

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1. In accordance with a decree of the East German Council of Ministers of 2 February 1953, the State Commission for Trade and Procurement of the Council of Ministers of the DDR (Staatliche Kommission fuer Handel und Versorgung beim Ministerrat der DDR) has been formed.1/ The State Commission is an organ of the Council of Ministers and will base its work on the People's Economic Plan, as established by the Volkskammer, and on the laws, regulations and decrees of the East German government.
2. The State Commission is to be composed of the following:
 - Chairman
 - Deputy Chairman
 - Minister for Trade and Procurement
 - Minister for Light Industry
 - State Secretary for the Foodstuffs and Liquor and Tobacco Industries
 - Minister for Agriculture and Forestry
 - State Secretariat for Procurement and Purchase of Agricultural Produce (Erfassung und Aufkauf landwirtschaftlicher Erzeugnisse)
 - Deputy to the Minister for Foreign and Internal German Trade
 - Deputy to the Chairman of the State Planning Commission
 - Director of the State Administration for Material Procurement
 - President of the Union of German Consumer Cooperatives (Verband deutscher Konsumentensenschaften) (VDK)

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Member of the Secretariat of the Federal Executive Committee of the FDGB (East German Federation of Trade Unions)

Member of the Secretariat of the Central Executive Committee of the VdGB (Farmers' Mutual Aid Association)

The chairman, his deputy, and the members of the State Commission must be approved by the Council of Ministers. The chairman will have a seat and a vote in the Council of Ministers and will belong to the Praesidium of the Council of Ministers. The State Commission is to meet every two weeks; meetings are to be scheduled by the chairman or his deputy.

3. The following are the main functions and duties of the State Commission:

- a. It is to supervise the implementation of the People's Economic Plan and of all laws, regulations and decrees of the government which affect trade, procurement, and the production of consumer goods.
- b. The State Commission is responsible for coordinating and supervising the work of the Ministry for Trade and Procurement, the Ministry for Light Industry, the State Secretariat for the Foodstuffs and Liquor and Tobacco Industries, and the VDK, with the idea in mind of insuring that the civilian population is adequately supplied with industrial and consumer goods.
- c. The Commission will formulate plans (Perspektiven) for developing trade in East Germany; in doing this it will work closely with the trade institutes. It is also responsible for directing and supervising the Ministry for Trade and Procurement and the VDK in organizing the exploitation (Ausbau) of East German state and cooperative trade.
- d. The Commission will further control and direct the formulation of measures designed to improve the supply, quality and varieties of consumer goods, and to expand the East German trade net in "key joints of socialistic reconstruction."
- e. Henceforth all proposals from Ministers with which the Commission coordinates will be handed in to the State Commission, which will then forward them to the Council of Ministers.
- f. The State Commission is empowered to issue decrees and take necessary operative action to guarantee that the needs of the civilian population are met. If action cannot be agreed upon, the problem is to be turned over to the Council of Ministers. The Council of Ministers is also to be consulted on any additional measures which go beyond the limits of the People's Economic Plan.
- g. The Commission is to coordinate actions taken by the VDK and the various ministries in fulfilling their individual tasks; this does not mean, however, that the responsibilities of the ministries and the VDK are in any way limited or decreased.
- h. The chairman or deputy chairman of the Commission is completely responsible to the Council of Ministers for fulfilling the tasks of the Commission and is responsible for any decrees issued by the Commission. He is further competent to issue orders to the members of the Commission to overcome any shortages (Mangel) which may arise. The members of the Commission are fully responsible for the work done by their offices or the areas over which they have jurisdiction (Aufgabenbereich).

Comment. The decree was approved by the Council of Ministers on 30 April 1953.

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